

Mr. DOMENICI. The Senator is correct. It is my understanding that the transfer of the matter under section 347(a)(2) does not affect or otherwise modify the standard for activities undertaken pursuant to Public Law 96-514. The Senate included language in section 107(b) of the Senate bill relating to mitigation of adverse effects that the managers have not adopted as unnecessary. It is the understanding of the managers that the Department of the Interior is interpreting the current standard in the manner set forth in the Senate language.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Finally, the conference report contains an entire title designed to help Native Americans promote the development of tribal energy resources, including an innovative program of tribal energy resource agreements. Would the distinguished chairman of the Senate conferees comment on this title?

Mr. DOMENICI. I would be happy to, Mr. President. The managers recognized the large supply of energy resources existing on Indian lands, as well as the desire of many Tribes to increase access to those resources. The Indian Energy title is designed to provide economic development opportunities to Indian tribes by assisting and empowering them to develop and utilize tribal energy resources in a manner that meets the needs of Indian country and the Nation as a whole.

The title will also continue and strengthen efforts to improve access to electricity for native people who are ten times more likely to be without such access than their counterparts residing outside of Indian reservations. Of particular note, is the creation of a new Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs within the Department of Energy that is dedicated to working with Indian tribes on energy development matters.

The Title also creates a new program in section 503 related to energy leases, agreements, and rights-of-way on tribal lands that continues a policy of promoting tribal self-determination while preserving the trust relationship between Tribes and the Federal Government. The leases, agreements, and rights-of-way section preserves the full application of Federal environmental laws while authorizing eligible Tribes to approve individual energy projects without duplicative Federal approvals.

The title contains several other provisions, all of which the managers believe will provide significant benefits to Indian country.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I thank Senator DOMENICI for placing these explanations in the RECORD.

Mr. President, before I yield back the remaining time, since I see there are no additional Senators waiting to speak, unless there are some who appear, I want to take a few minutes to thank committee staff for the excellent work that went into the development of this bill. We have had superb staff work here in the Senate on the

Democratic side and the Republican side. I particularly want to single out the staff members on the Democratic side who have worked so hard, over many weeks, months, and even years in the development of this legislation. To the extent this work product is a step forward, it is a result of their hard work and their commitment, and clearly this is an accomplishment which could not have been achieved without that excellent work.

Bob Simon is the staff director on the Democratic side. He has done a superb job. Sam Fowler is the chief counsel and also has done yeoman work. Vicky Thorne; Bill Wicker; Patty Beneke; Deborah Estes; Mike Connor; Jennifer Michael; Leon Lowery; Jonathan Black; Al Stayman; Scott Miller; David Brooks; Michael Carr; Sreela Nandi, who is an AAAS fellow sponsored by the American Chemical Society who works with our committee staff; Tara Billingsley, who is a Department of Energy detailee who worked with the committee in May and June of this year; Amanda Goldman; Mark Wilson; Jonathan Epstein, who is a fellow in my personal office who also worked hard on various aspects of this legislation; and James Dennis in my office, who worked on the tax provisions of the bill.

In addition, I want to acknowledge the extremely capable staff on the Republican side, in particular Alex Flint, who was mentioned by Senator DOMENICI earlier, the staff director; Judy Pensabene, who is the chief counsel on the Republican side; and the other many staff members who I am sure will be recognized by Senator DOMENICI before action on this legislation is complete.

Let me also acknowledge key House staff who worked so hard during this conference committee that we concluded: Mark Menezes, who is counsel for Chairman JOE BARTON; Sue Sheridan and Bruce Harris, who are counsels for the ranking member on the House side, Congressman JOHN DINGELL.

All of these individuals whom I named made a tremendous contribution to this legislation and all of them deserve our great thanks. No constructive work is done here in the Congress without this kind of excellent staff work and we are very fortunate in the case of this legislation.

I am informed there are no other Senators wishing to speak at this point. I am also informed we will have additional time tomorrow for statements before any actual votes occur on or in relation to the conference report.

I yield the floor at this time. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN MEMORY OF BRETT KARLIN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a young man from Illinois whose future was full of promise and hope. Last summer, 18-year-old Brett Karlin of Buffalo Grove, IL, was anticipating a summer of youthful fun. Just weeks after his graduation from Adlai E. Stevenson High School, on July 30, 2004, Brett and his best friend Andy set out on a fateful drive through the outskirts of a neighboring suburban town. Neither Andy nor Brett was under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and Brett's seatbelt was fastened, but it was little help as they raced over the posted 30-mile-per-hour speed limit. As they pushed the speedometer of the Honda Accord they were driving to 112 miles per hour, the car skidded out of control and collided with a tree. The crash left twisted metal, protruding shards of shattered glass, and a head trauma that cost Brett his life 6 days later. A reckless pastime gone awry had cut a promising life short and left a grieving family in its wake.

Unfortunately, tragedies like Brett's occur each day. According to a 2003 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 4,700 U.S. teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 died of injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes in 2001. In my home State, teenagers make up only 6 percent of all Illinois drivers, but they account for 16 percent of all crash fatalities. We must work to prevent these tragic losses, and one of the ways we can do that is by encouraging legislators, teachers, and parents to educate America's teenage drivers about driver safety.

To memorialize Brett's life, Brett's father, Michael Karlin, founded the Brakes for Brett nonprofit organization. Through peer presentations to high schools and religious and community groups, and by maintaining an informational Web site, Mr. Karlin, Andy, and other friends of Brett educate young adults about the dangers associated with reckless driving. I commend Mr. Karlin and those who collaborate with the Brakes for Brett organization for their work to save the lives of young drivers.

Together, we can work to alert teens to the hazards associated with speeding and joyriding, including its social, emotional, psychological, and financial effects.

In 2003, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that the economic costs of both fatal and nonfatal police-reported crashes involving drivers age 15 to 20 were approximately \$40.8 billion. Our Nation